

chief consideration in doing good is character.

A fisherman must be careful of his steps. Simon Peter had caught fish not only with a net in the deep sea, but also with a hook near the shore. Peter knew that many kinds of fishes are very timid. The noise of a footfall or of conversation will frighten them away. They will hide in the dark waters amid the craggy rocks, and no bait, however delicious, can entice them from their hiding place. The fisherman must mind his steps. So must the fisher of men. Christians sometimes drive away those whom they should save. The Christian who does not walk circumspectly before those who are without cannot win them. Talk to that young man about forsaking his sins and becoming a Christian, and he will answer: "Do you want me to be like Mr. A——? He is a prominent church member, but he is not honest nor truthful nor pure." Such charges are sometimes nothing more than flimsy excuses. They are not justified by the facts.

Some years ago a young man in a certain community declared that to his certain knowledge leading members of a church in the place where he lived were base hypocrites, and he would not associate with them in church fellowship. He would be ashamed to belong to the same church with them. Afterward, when his eyes were opened and his soul converted, he frankly confessed that he was wrong. He said that his judgment was founded on prejudice and not on facts. Many Christians are condemned and denounced by those who are without when they are as pure as the light. They expect men to say all manner of evil against them falsely.

Sometimes, however, such accusations are justified by the facts. Professing Christians may be found who are not upright. They are not honest. They do not practice what they profess. They are stumbling blocks in the way of sinners. They give occasion to the enemies of Christ to blaspheme. Woe unto him by whom the offense cometh! "It were better for him that a mill stone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

But true godliness will win souls. The world profits more by the life of one holy man than by all the eloquence and all the wealth in the world. Good men are the salt of the earth. "He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord." His name is like ointment poured forth. His presence creates an atmosphere which imparts spiritual health to the community. When Simon Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost his shadow carried healing to the sick. The very shadow of a good man is a blessing to the people. Out from him there goes an unconscious influence for good which men feel and by which their lives are affected. Wicked men may despise him and seek to destroy him, but, without knowing why, his neighbors will be influenced for good by his life. He is a savor of life unto life.

Those who think that godliness makes men disagreeable and unlovely are altogether mistaken. There have been men, and women who believed that separation from the world means a long face, a sour disposition, and a melancholy spirit. Such Christians take a one-sided view of religion. Their piety is distorted. Their godliness is a miserable caricature. True godliness is beautiful. Jesus was altogether lovely. His disciples are partakers of His Spirit. They shine as lights in the world.

There is no better means of doing good than a good character. This is the Gospel translated into everyday life and exhibited before the eyes of men. We need neither riches, nor learning, nor genius to enable us to do good. There is power in all these. But the mightiest force under the sun is a good life.

## Sisters' S. C. E.

Godfrey Sisters' Society

On Aug. 18 our society had its annual election of officers, it having been a year since Sister Detwiler was with us and organized our S. S. C. E. We are yet young but we feel we have been blessed and we will try to do more Christ and the Church the coming year than was done in the past.

For some time we have been considering the best method of raising more money for missionary purposes. Recently a freewill offering was taken up and a couple weeks ago those of our members who so desired formed a little band and joined the Order of the Tenth Legion. We are certain these are unquestionable methods of raising money for Christ's work for they are founded on scripture.

If everyone in our brotherhood would consider the truth of God's words when he said. The silver is mine and the gold is mine, Haggai 2: 8 and take up the scriptural way of giving one tenth of his income to God, there would be no need of so many urgent calls for money. We would not only support missions abroad, but have the needed amount to educate more ministers for the church. Very few after having tried this method, ever go back to their old way of robbing God for earthly gain.

JENNIE M. GARBER.

## Our Young People

TRUE HONOR

John 5: 41-44

Topic for Sept. 15

Every act that we do is brought into three-fold judgment. We ask: what does conscience say about it? What does the world think about it? And what does God think about it? Now conscience is often wrong because it has been wrongly educated. And the judgment of the world is often wrong because it has inherited wrong standards to go by. God only can pronounce true judgment. Honor from him is absolute and final but from none else.

Yet we are constantly seeking to please ourselves or the world forgetting that in all things we are to first please God.

This is because the temptations of the world are present and seen and its judgment bar is ever before us while the true judgment is not seen.

But the "Things which are seen are temporal while the things that are not seen are eternal." Let those whose minds are not strong enough to admit of faith perish in the following of the world that perishes, but let those who know God and the joys of the spiritual life keep ever in mind the true standard of honor and guide their lives by it. We will find it described in God's word and exemplified in the life of Jesus.

Let us search it out and follow it faithfully that others following us may come also to glorify the Father in heaven.

### SCRIPTURE HELP

#### Characteristics of True Honor

- 1 Just, II Tim. 2: 19; II Pet. 2: 9.
- 2 Lasting, Heb. 6: 10; I Cor. 4: 5.
- 3 Is according to one's own merits, Gal. 6: 4.

#### Conditions of True Honor

- 4 Humility, Prov. 15: 33.
- 5 Peace, Prov. 20: 3.
- 6 Mercy, Prov. 21: 21.
- 7 Fear of the Lord, Prov. 22: 4.
- 8 Service, John 12: 26.

#### The Example of Jesus

- 1 Refused the temptation of the flesh, Luke 4: 2-4; Mark 10: 45.
- 2 Refused to honor the tempter, Luke 4: 5-8.
- 3 Refused to make a display of his power merely to gain fame, Luke 4: 9-12; John 5: 41.
- 4 He always honored the Father, John 8: 29.
- 5 Therefore the Father honored him, John 8: 54.

#### Evils From Seeking False Honor

- 1 A lesson from the "rulers," John 12: 43.
- 2 A lesson from David, II Sam. 24: 10.
- 3 A lesson from Solomon, II Chron. 1: 11, 12; II Kings 11: 30-32.
- 4 A lesson from Herod, Acts 12: 21-23.
- 5 A lesson from Nebuchadnezzar, Dan. 4: 28-33.

### QUESTIONS

- 1 What is honor?
- 2 If a man is not honorable in himself can the praise of men make him honorable?
- 3 If a man have true honor in himself can the criticisms of men take it from him?
- 4 How may we know what is truly honorable?
- 5 Why are the opinions of people so often wrong?
- 6 Why can true honor come from God only?
- 7 Why is self-praise wrong?
- 8 Will God overlook any good we ever do?
- 9 What is true honor worth?
- 10 How may we learn more about true honor?

C. F. YODER.

#### What Makes One A Christian

J. R. Miller.

More and more is it coming to be understood that character is the test and proof of Christianity. It used to be taught that belief was everything. One must hold certain doctrines in order to be a Christian. It is important to believe well. Every teaching of the Bible has its place in building of character. "What think ye of Christ?" Is a question that needs to be asked in a very definite way of every one who is following Christ. We may not disparage doctrine. Wrong beliefs give life and conduct unlovely twists. We are exhorted to "grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ." But it is possible for one to be intensively orthodox, to know truth in its relations, and to ac-